

## Section 4.2: Mathematical Induction I

1. Examples: Falling dominoes and Marietta College book brigade
2. Example: For all integers  $n \geq 8$ ,  $n$  cents can be obtained using 3¢ and 5¢ coins.  
Formally: For all integers  $n \geq 8$ ,  $P(n)$  is true, where  $P(n)$  is the sentence  
“ $n$  cents can be obtained using 3¢ and 5¢ coins.”  
Look at how to obtain  $(k + 1)$ ¢ from  $k$ ¢ if previous did/didn't include a 5¢ coin.
3. **Principle of Mathematical Induction:** (Validity of method is taken as an axiom.)  
Let  $P(n)$  be a property that is defined for integers  $n$ , and let  $a$  be a fixed integer. Suppose the following two statements are true:
  - (a)  $P(a)$  is true.
  - (b) For all integers  $k \geq a$ , if  $P(k)$  is true then  $P(k + 1)$  is true.Then,  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq a$ .
4. History of Mathematical Induction:
  - First used by Italian scientist Francesco Maurolico in 1575.
  - Pierre de Fermat (“method of infinite descent”) and Blaise Pascal used it in 17<sup>th</sup> century.
  - In 1883, Augustus DeMorgan described the process and called it *mathematical induction*.
5. Equivalent Statement of Mathematical Induction:  
If  $S$  is a set of integers satisfying  $a \in S$  and  $k \in S \Rightarrow k + 1 \in S$ , then  $k \in S, \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \geq a$ .
6. Proving by Mathematical Induction: To prove “For all integers  $n \geq a$ ,  $P(n)$  is true.”
  - (a) Show that the property is true for  $n = a$ .
  - (b) Show that for all integers  $k \geq a$ ,  $P(k)$  is true  $\Rightarrow P(k + 1)$  is true.  
To do this,
    - Assume that the property is true for  $n = k$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \geq a$ .
    - Show that the property is true for  $n = k + 1$ .
7. Proposition 4.2.1  
For all integers  $n \geq 8$ ,  $P(n)$  is true, where  $P(n)$  is the sentence  
“ $n$  cents can be obtained using 3¢ and 5¢ coins.”  
Prove using mathematical induction.
8. Examples: Prove the following using mathematical induction.
  - (a) Theorem 4.2.2:  
 $1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$  for all integers  $n \geq 1$ . (Also prove without induction.)
  - (b) Theorem 4.2.3: (Sum of a Geometric Sequence)  
 $\forall r \in \mathbb{R}, r \neq 1$  and any non-negative integer  $n$ ,

$$\sum_{i=0}^n r^i = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}.$$

(c) (p. 226, pr. 13)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i(i+1) = \frac{n(n-1)(n+1)}{3}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 2.$$